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NEW EARTH REMOVER, FARM MACHINES INTRODUCED

GIANT EARTH REMOVER BUILT -- Rude Pravo, No 66, 19 Mar 49

On 18 March representatives of the Vitkovice Ironworks state enterprise delivered to the Northern Czech Coal Mines the largest machine in Czechoslovakia, an earth remover. It was placed not far from the President Benes mine. Before the war, the construction of these large machines was a monopoly of German machinists. Therefore, it is a great triumph for the workers and technicians of the Vitkovice Ironworks that they constructed the earth remover in the coal field from bridge-construction material delivered before the war. The success is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that they had no plans available; they had to perform the entire statistical calculation, design a considerable part of the constructions, and calculate and design the entire propulsion mechanism.

The earth remover is a significant complement to the gigantic dredges which operate directly in the coal pits. In its present vicinity, millions of tons of earth are dredged annually; this earth must be deposited on land already mined. The earth is conveyed by special cars to the 2,800-ton earth remover (large bucket dredge) which collects by means of buckets having a capacity of 2,200 liters. The material runs through the earth remover on six long rubber belts, the widest being 2.4 meters. The latter is the widest conveyor belt yet produced by our rubber industry. The speed of these belts is about 13 kilometers per hour, and almost 3,000 cubic meters of earth pass along them in 60 minutes. The 60-meter-long discharge arm throws out the earth at a high rate. This machine will save hundreds of thousands of working hours annually.

The balancing of the machine and the distribution of its weight over 280 wheels is a marvel of design. The earth remover is moved along the ground on five rails. The machine, electrically driven, has 100 motors. Now operated by eight employees, later there will be only five.

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NEW MACHINES FOR FARM WORK -- Otrava Lidu, No 53, 4 Mar 49

Two hundred high-capacity potato planters were distributed by planting time to state farms and machinery cooperatives. Manpower requirements are cut two-thirds by these machines. Tractor attachments used this year have cut turnip-seed planting to a record low. Similar service is planned for sugar-beet planting in areas where manpower is scarce.

All types of Czechoslovak-made farm tractors will be tried out in the fields this spring. The Ministry of Agriculture is interested in obtaining complete data on the capabilities of these machines in connection with planning for the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan.

The most important of the machines soon to be released for farm use are hundreds of Zetor-15 tractors which, because of their lighter weight, will be able to work much faster than previous models.

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